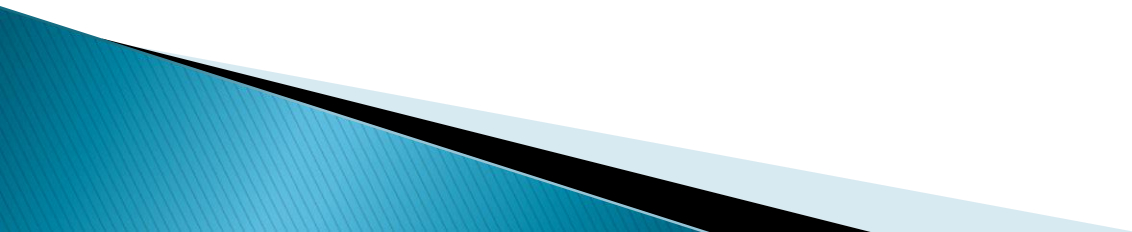


# **VOLUNTEERISM**

## **The Unique Role of the Pediatric Emergency Clinician**

Roger Barkin, MD, MPH, FAAP, FACEP  
March, 2014  
SIMEUP  
Torino, Italy

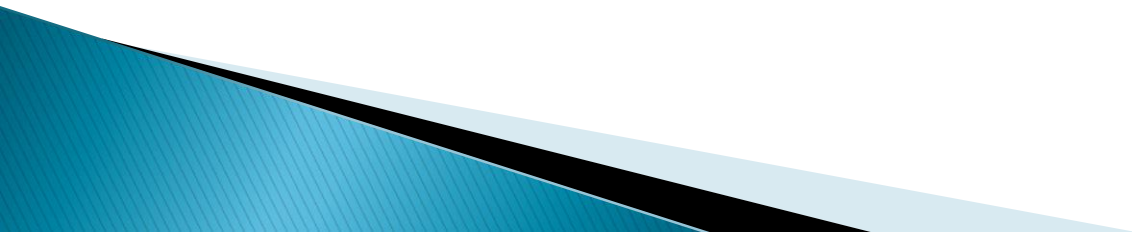
# MY PERSONAL BACKGROUND

- ▶ Training: Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine
  - ▶ Clinical settings: government, private, poor/affluent, rural/urban
  - ▶ Focused missions such as Operation Smile including 10 missions to China, Indochina, South America, and Belarus
  - ▶ Disaster response teams domestically
- 


# ITALIAN VOLUNTEERISM

- ▶ Long and consistent tradition and history
- ▶ Focused and disaster programs
  - Domestic and international projects
- ▶ Croce Rossa
  - Recent activities
    - Responding to Sardinian cyclone, northern Italian earthquake, migrant boat sinking off Lampedusa
    - Assistance in Syria
    - Supporting the poor in Milan
- ▶ “Croce”: Green, White and Yellow
  - Providing emergency medical and other services
- ▶ Operation Smile
- ▶ Chernobyl. Summer programs for kids to reduce radiation exposure

# ANPAS

- ▶ Founded in 1860
  - ▶ Activities: emergency medical rescue, disaster relief, support for the disadvantaged, public health awareness, transportation to social programs
  - ▶ 90,000 volunteers, 400,000 members, 1000 civil service volunteers, 2200 professionals, 6000 dedicated vehicles
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# Unique Gifts of the Pediatric Emergency Clinician

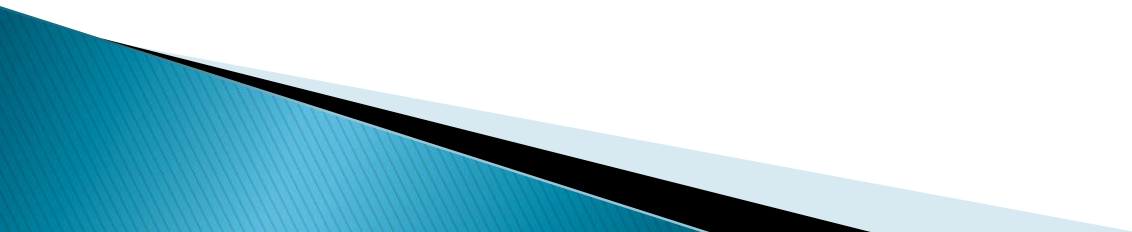
- ▶ Broad based knowledge of kids
  - ▶ Clinical skills to care for children in wide variety of settings and clinical conditions
  - ▶ Comfortable functioning in less than ideal circumstances.
  - ▶ Improvisation and flexibility
  - ▶ Trained and experience in working as a member of a TEAM
  - ▶ Understand the importance of flow and prioritization of services provided
- 

# EFFECTIVENESS

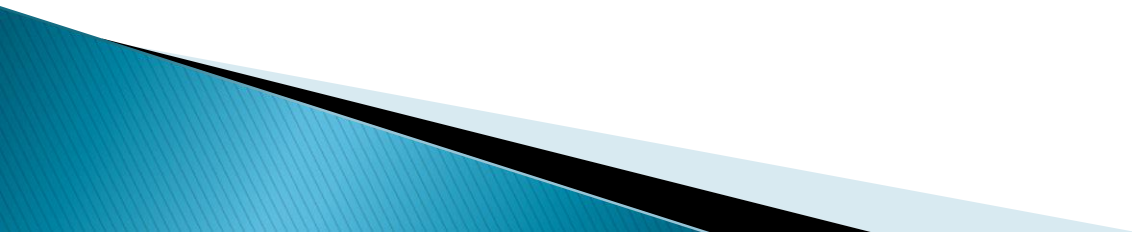
- ▶ Team Members
- ▶ Liaison with local health professionals and other volunteer organizations
- ▶ Liaison with local government
- ▶ Preparation
  - Equipment, training, supplies
  - Medical device technician
- ▶ **INFRASTRUCTURE**
  - Facilities, personnel, resources

# CLINICAL SETTING

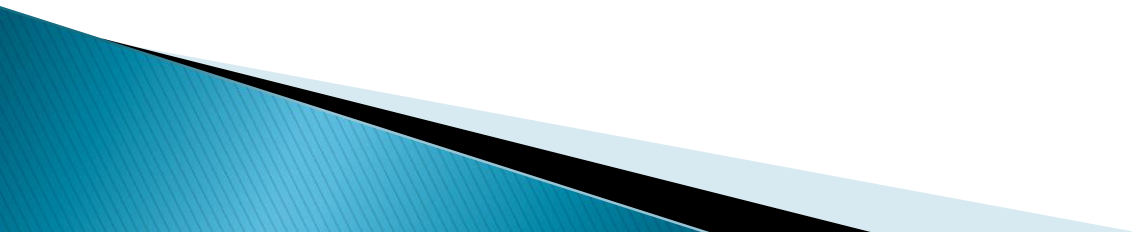
OPERATION SMILE: cleft lip and palate repairs

1. Identify facilities and local resources
  2. Recruit patients
  3. Screening children
  4. Preoperative evaluation
  5. Recovery
  6. Postoperative management
  7. Follow-up
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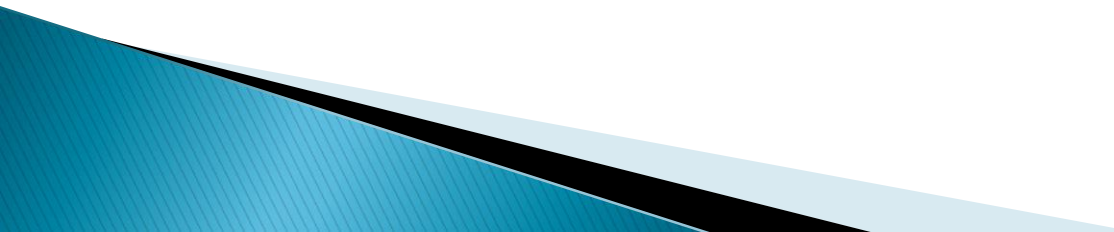
# CAMPS, TRIPS and CLINICS

- ▶ Disease Specific Camps such as diabetes and hemophilia
  - ▶ Make-a-Wish
  - ▶ Special needs clinics
  - ▶ Low income clinics
- 

# DISASTER RESPONSE

- ▶ Linkage with local resources
  - ▶ Coordinate with other agencies
  - ▶ Infrastructure is essential to be effective
  - ▶ Equipment, supplies, communication, transportation, translators
  - ▶ Linkages with more sophisticated, back-up medical resources
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# RESOURCES

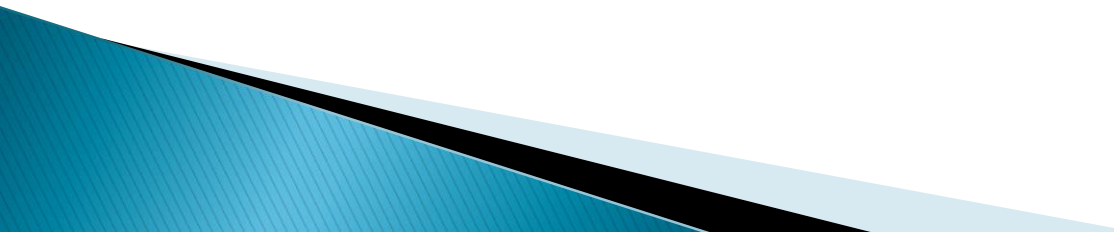
- ▶ Money
  - ▶ Facilities
  - ▶ Local health professionals
  - ▶ Translators
  - ▶ Communication
  - ▶ Internet access for references
  - ▶ Transportation
  - ▶ Back up facilities in case of patient deterioration
- 







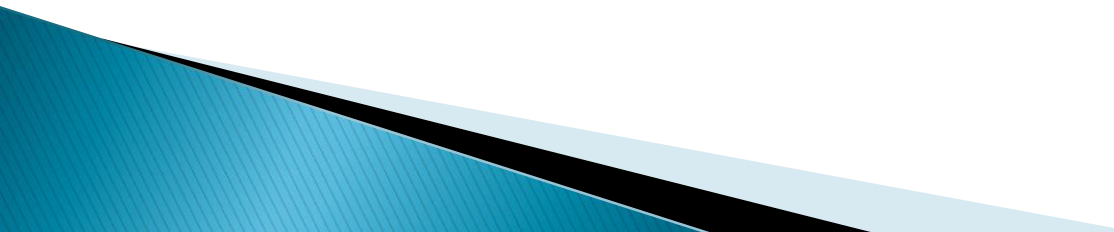
# Volunteerism: The Real Gift and Rewards are to the Volunteers

- ▶ Seeing the faces of those you served
  - ▶ Remembering the joy you have created
  - ▶ Changing lives, one person at a time
  - ▶ Reducing morbidity and mortality
  - ▶ Making new friends and colleagues
  - ▶ Understanding new cultures with an intimacy that others can never achieve
  - ▶ The frustration may be that you can not do more
- 

# TRAINING AND MENTORING

- ▶ Transferring of knowledge and skills is paramount to continuing your efforts
- ▶ Sharing approaches to patient management
- ▶ Serving as resource in subsequent years given ease of communication using email, Skype, etc

# MODELING

- ▶ Many cultures have not historically had resources to encourage professionals to volunteer. This is a key component of your success in fostering the ongoing success and continuity of volunteer programs.
  - ▶ This role is important not only for the professional team members but also the students, translators and observers of the joy of volunteering and giving back. They are the health professionals of the future.
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# THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE YOUR SKILLS AND TALENTS



# WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR EXPERIENCES AS A VOLUNTEER?

